

Appln. No.: 10/618,344
Attorney Docket No. 352000-902001

REMARKS

Prior to this response, claims 1-27 were pending, with claims 1-12 and 17-23 withdrawn. In reply to the Office action mailed October 27, 2006, please enter the amendments set forth above and consider the following remarks. By this response, Applicants amend claims 13 and 24, add new claims 28-39, and submit cancellation of withdrawn claims 1-12 and 17-23 without prejudice or disclaimer in accordance with MPEP § 821 to secure the indicated allowance. After entry of this paper, claims 13-16 and 24-39 will be pending in this application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner (i) provisionally rejected claims 24-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for same-invention type double patenting; & (ii) allowed claims 13-16.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 24-27 stand provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for same-invention type double patenting over claims 24-27 of copending application No. 10/617,625 (U.S. patent application publication No. US2004/0105586A1). Applicants thank the Examiner for advising that these claims were (inadvertently) pending in the related divisional application. Via separate paper in the related application, Applicants have cancelled claims 24-27 from the copending application (application No. 10/617,625) without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the instant rejection has thereby been overcome and should be withdrawn. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 24-27 are allowable for reasons consistent with those regarding claims 13-16.

New Claims

Applicants submit new claims 28-39 that recite subject matter consistent with existing dependent claims or otherwise before the Office and are dependent on allowable claims 13 and 24. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that these new claims present no new matter, and are allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims.

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Conclusory Remarks:

Claim 13 and 24 have been amended to correct minor clerical errors.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 13-16 and 24-39 are now in condition for formal allowance, and early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the number below if such will facilitate prosecution of this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit in the overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-1896 referencing Attorney Docket No. 352000-902001.

Respectfully submitted,
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